



GAP Guidance Evaluation Phase 2 Revisions and Allocation

TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Moving forward with GAP Guidance and GAP Allocation Revisions

EPA is revising the [2013 Guidance on the Award and Management of General Assistance Agreements for Tribes and Tribal Consortia](#).

These revisions are the result of the GAP Guidance Evaluation (GGE) initiated in 2018 by EPA’s American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO). EPA is inviting tribes to join us in the revision process through volunteer workgroups. Additionally, EPA will initiate a 120-day consultation on the national allocation of GAP funds July 19 – November 16, 2021. Final GAP Guidance and a revised national GAP allocation will be effective October 1, 2022.

EPA has identified five workgroups for tribal participation. If you are interested in volunteering for a workgroup, please contact Lisa Berrios berrios.lisa@epa.gov



1. GAP Structure
2. Test Drives
3. PPGs and GAP
4. Technical Assistance
5. GAP Hub

What is GAP?

The Indian Environmental General Assistance Program, or GAP, is the largest tribal capacity building program in EPA. Since the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program statute was enacted in 1992, GAP has been a primary source of non-competitive, consistent funding for tribes to address multi-media capacity building and solid and hazardous waste implementation needs. The efficient, effective, and flexible administration of GAP is a shared priority for tribes as well as EPA.

Tribal Engagement

What GAP Revision opportunities are available?

EPA has identified five workgroups for tribal participation.

Workgroup Name	Focus
GAP Structure	Tone and Layout of Guidance
Test Drives	What does a test drive look like under GAP?
Performance Partnership Grants	Better incorporating PPGs in the Guidance
Technical assistance	Resources for capacity building in GAP
GAP Hub	ETEPs and Performance Management

What does participation look like?

EPA will convene virtual workgroups to review draft documents, develop recommendations, and/or draft portions of GAP Guidance revisions. Each workgroup will be comprised of three EPA and three tribal representatives, will determine their own meeting logistics, and will have specific goals and objectives. The workgroups will meet July – October 2021. Depending on scope and meeting schedule, some workgroups may finish prior to October.

All Voices Welcome!

The GAP Guidance is for tribes at all levels of capacity building. All perspectives from beginning to advanced stages of tribal capacity development are encouraged on the revision workgroups.

How Do I Volunteer?

To volunteer, please send an email to Lisa Berrios, (berrios.lisa@epa.gov) by **July 16, 2021**. In your email, please include:

- ✓ Your 3 workgroup priority areas of interest (in order of preference)
- ✓ Summary of your experience and why this workgroup interests you
- ✓ Name of the Tribe you represent
- ✓ How to best reach you

AIEO will share workgroup assignments shortly after July 16.

In the future, AIEO may also be requesting case studies and photos for use in revised Guidance.

Tribal Consultation

GAP Allocation Consultation

In addition to revising the 2013 GAP Guidance, EPA will initiate consultation with tribes on how EPA allocates Congressionally appropriated GAP funds to regions annually. Letters will be sent to Tribal Leaders notifying the start of consultation beginning July 19, 2021. More information on EPA's consultation on the national GAP allocation will be available online at <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

Timeline for GAP Revisions and Allocation Consultation

July 2021	December 2021	March 2022	April 2022	October 1, 2022
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
EPA begins GAP Revisions with tribes and initiates consultation on GAP allocation	Once workgroups and consultation are complete, EPA compiles and shares Revised Guidance and Allocation for tribal consultation	After any revisions from consultation are made, EPA issues new, final GAP Guidance	Training on GAP Guidance begins for tribes and EPA staff	Final GAP Guidance and revised allocation are effective

Background

In 2018, the Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) began an evaluation to review the effectiveness of the 2013 GAP Guidance and to identify opportunities to improve the Guidance and its implementation. This Guidance describes how EPA administers the GAP Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. § 4368b). Under the GAP statute, EPA provides GAP financial assistance to tribal governments and intertribal consortia to assist tribes in planning, developing, and establishing the capacity to implement federal environmental programs administered by the EPA, and to assist in implementation of tribal solid and hazardous waste programs in accordance with applicable provisions of law (including service delivery activities as of 2016).

EPA received more than [800 comments](#) in tribal consultation and through discussions with tribal organizations, tribal partnership groups, and Regional Tribal Operations Committees (RTOCs).

Want to learn more? Visit our website at

<https://www.epa.gov/tribal/indian-environmental-general-assistance-program-gap>